

SPARKS.

An electric plant is being installed in the Fort Saskatchewan Milling Co's. mill, N. W. T.

A scheme is mooted at Chilliwack, B. C., to purchase an electric light plant for lighting the town.

Mr. Geo. Stitt, of Cardinal, Ont., has invented a device to regulate the light of an incandescent lamp.

The Protestant School Commissioners of Montreal have decided to fit Mount Royal school with electric clocks.

The bill incorporating the Nova Scotia Electric Light Co., has reached an advanced stage in the Legislature.

The village of Nelson, B. C., is now in possession of its electric plant, having purchased it from the Electric Lighting Company.

The Canadian Water Power Company of Quebec, want a manager for their works now being constructed at Chaudiere Falls, near that city.

The annual meeting of the Amherstburg Electric Light, Heat and Power Company was held last month, at which the old officers were re-elected.

It is improbable that the proposed extension of the Ottawa Electric Railway from Rockcliffe Park to the rifle range will be carried out this summer.

Mr. Saxby, of Kingsville, has submitted a proposition for electric lighting to the council of Bradford, Ont. He proposes to install a plant to cost about \$8,000.

Mr. M. Martin has applied to the town council of Wallaceburg, Ont., for permission to erect poles and wires for the purpose of operating an incandescent lighting plant.

The city surveyor of Montreal has been requested to report on the feasibility of placing underground electric wires in Craig street from St. Lawrence to St. Antoine street.

The Anglo American Power Company, which was refused permission to lay underground wires in the city of Toronto, has asked for another conference with the Board of Control.

Mr. R. E. T. Pringle, Electrical Supplies, 216 St. James st., Montreal had his stock damaged somewhat by water during the fire which recently took place in Bett's restaurant, next door.

A by-law will probably be submitted to the ratepayers of Rat Portage, Ont., to raise the sum of \$40,000 to purchase a half interest in the Citizens' Electric Light and Telephone Company.

On the 20th of this month the ratepayers of Winnipeg will vote on a by-law to install a municipal lighting plant. Tenders for the supply of the plant are invited by C. J. Brown, city clerk, up to the 17th inst.

The Pontiac Telephone Company are offering for sale their rights and plant, the line being about sixty miles in length. Tenders for purchase are to be addressed to F. C. Dezouche, Bryson, Que., by April 15th.

The Hamilton Electric Light and Power Co. are negotiating with the city of Hamilton for a renewal of its lighting contract. If given a ten years franchise, the company will spend about \$100,000 in improving the system.

An arrangement seems likely to be made by the corporation of Gravenhurst for the purchase of the electric lighting plant now owned and operated in that town by Mr. Fletcher, who has offered to sell at the price of \$10,500.

According to Mr. Hugh McCutcheon, Collector of Customs at Nakusy, B. C., a Toronto syndicate has purchased mineral springs near that place and intend building a \$50,000 sanatorium, to be equipped with an electric light plant.

Frank Tushingham, an engineer at the power house of the Toronto Street Railway, recently had his left arm torn off at the elbow. Tushingham was repairing one of the pumps, when it started suddenly, resulting in the accident.

Buffalo capitalists are said to have decided to build an electric railway from Fort Erie, Ont., to Point Abino, a distance of thirteen miles, and to Chippewa, from which point an electric road runs along the Canadian side of the river to Queenston.

Mr. S. R. Ickes, of Harrisburg, Penn., was in Woodstock, Ont., recently, negotiating with the Council and Board of Trade regarding the construction of an electric railway to connect that city and Ingersoll. He proposes to locate the power house at Beachville, about midway between the two places.

News has reached Toronto that the city council of Birmingham, Eng., have decided, by a vote of sixty to one, to take over the street railway at the expiration of the Mackenzie-Ross franchise

and operate it as a department of the municipal service. Mr. Granville C. Cunningham, formerly city engineer of Toronto, is manager of this road, which a few years ago was converted into an electric system.

Mr. E. A. C. Pew, is again to the front with his proposed power canal scheme. He states that the necessary capital has been subscribed for its construction and that the contracts will be let at an early date. The canal is intended to extend from the Welland river, two and one half miles below Wellandport, to the Jordan river, the power to be developed at what is called Ball's Falls.

The West Kootenay Power and Light Co., of Rossland, B. C., are experiencing a large demand for light and power. They are at present lighting up the shaft of several large mining properties, and are operating with complete success one of the largest electrical hoists ever installed. The hoist is designed to lift 12,000 lbs. at a speed of 800 feet a minute, and is driven by a 300 h. p. induction motor.

An engineer named Germain, in the French ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, has brought out an invention which he claims will revolutionize the telephone. By an ingenious adaptation of the telephone wire, the microphone is made to develop and intensify the vibration received, so that conversation can be carried on between two persons, both of whom may be several yards distance from the instrument.

The St. John Street Railway Company has been ordered by the court to pay \$25,000 as damages to Professor Hesse. The professor was organist of the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Providence, R. I., and received injuries while a passenger on a car of defendants which necessitated the amputation of his left foot, and rendered him incapable of performing his duties as organist. The Street Railway Company will probably appeal the case.

According to the statistics issued by the Treasury Department of the United States, there were imported into Canada from that country during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1898, electrical apparatus and instruments to the value of \$300,530. Of this sum Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were represented by \$24,506, Quebec and Ontario by \$254,182 and British Columbia by \$21,482. The total exports of electrical apparatus from the United States for that period were \$2,770,803.

A bill passed the Ontario Legislature at the recent session containing an agreement between the corporation of the town of Peterboro and the Peterboro Electric Light and Power Co. The bill provides that the town may supply electric light and heat for municipal purposes only and power for all purposes except commercial and private lighting, and should it engage in these undertakings, it must purchase by agreement or arbitration the street lighting plant of the company.

The Metropolitan Electric Co., of North Toronto, are building a first-class power station of 1,000 h.p. capacity at Bond Lake, to supply current for the operation of that portion of their system now under construction, extending from Richmond Hill to Roach's Point on Lake Simcoe, as well as the proposed new line under survey to Schomberg and Totttingham. The company propose to establish picnic and camp grounds at Bond Lake, for which object they have purchased two hundred acres of land.

It is definitely announced that the Trenton Electric Company and the Trenton Water Company have amalgamated, under the name of the Trenton Electric and Water Company, Limited. An arrangement has been entered into with the town of Trenton whereby the new company is given entire control of the town's water power, including the privilege of transmitting power to outside points. The new company will proceed at once to construct a transmission line to Belleville, and intend doing their own construction work.

Mr. Chas. Brent, M. E., of the Rat Portage Metallurgical Works, has recently pointed out the fact that electric power might advantageously be supplied to and employed by the mines located within a radius of twenty-five miles of the water power at Rat Portage. He points out that in winter especially electric hoists possess a distinct advantage over steam hoists, as the use of steam when the thermometer is 30 degrees below zero is attended with many difficulties. This also applies to diamond drill work both on surface and underground. Mr. Brent estimates that electric power can be supplied at less expense than for plant, and at half the cost of steam power. In this connection the Rat Portage Reduction Works are being equipped with motors to which current will be supplied at a cost of \$8 per day of twenty four hours for 75 h. p.